

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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TAGS: PFOR, TH, CB

SUBJ: THAI FOREIGN MINISTER ON KHMER PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

THAI FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE
ON THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 7 IN WHICH HE DISCUSSED THAILAND'S
EFFORTS TO CONVENE THE CONTENDING KHMER FACTIONS FOR PEACE TALKS
IN THAILAND.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS
REMARKS ON THIS SUBJECT.

BEGIN EXCERPTS:

WE TALKED OF GREAT EFFORTS WE ARE MAKING TO THE UTMOST OF OUR
ABILITY FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO BE HELD BY ALL CAMBODIAN FACTIONS,
NEGOTIATIONS TO RESTORE PEACE TO CAMBODIA. OUR REASONS
ARE BECAUSE WE DO NOT WANT TO SEE THIS REGION FACED WITH
TRAGEDY, CAUSED BY HARDSHIPS SUFFERED BY THE PEOPLE IN
EVERY NOOK AND CORNER, AND BECAUSE WE WANT PEACE TO BE
RESTORED AS SPEEDILY AS POSSIBLE, AS WELL AS BECAUSE WE
WANT A CEASEFIRE TO BE AGREED ON. ANOTHER EFFORT WE HAVE
MADE IS THE OFFER FOR THAILAND TO BE USED AS THE SITE
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FOR ALL CAMBODIAN FACTIONS TO HOLD A MEETING IN, IF

THEY WISH. THEY CAN FLY HERE AT ONCE TO MEET ANY TIME.
A MEETING OF ALL CAMBODIAN PARTIES AND FACTIONS WILL
MOST PROBABLY BE HELD IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

REPORTER: WHERE?

CHATCHAI: I OFFERED BANGKOK AS THE SITE.

REPORTER: DID HE ACCEPT THE OFFER?

CHATCHAI: PREMIER LONG BORET'S SIDE HAS ACCEPTED
IT, BUT I WILL HAVE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE OTHER SIDE.

REPORTER: HAVE YOU CONTACTED SIHANOUK'S SIDE?

CHATCHAI: NO INFORMATION CAN BE GIVEN YOU NOW BECAUSE
THE OFFER HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED YET. FURTHERMORE, THE
WISH OF ALL SIDES MUST BE ASCERTAINED FIRST.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT THERE IS ANY HOPE?

CHATCHAI: THERE SHOULD BE. WE ARE CONTINUING OUR
EFFORTS, BUT WHETHER THEY ACHIEVE SUCCESS OR NOT IS NOT
IMPORTANT. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS OUR DESIRE FOR A CEASE-
FIRE IN CAMBODIA, FOR IT TO STOP FIGHTING AND KILLING
AMONG CAMBODIANS THEMSELVES.

REPORTER: WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THE STATEMENT THAT
WHETHER SUCCESS IS ACHIEVED OR NOT IS NOT IMPORTANT?

CHATCHAI: THIS IS THE SITUATION. THE CONTACTS I
AM MAKING MIGHT ACHIEVE SUCCESS OR NOT, BUT EFFORTS
MUST BE CONTINUED STEADILY IN ORDER...

REPORTER: THROUGH WHOM ARE YOU MAKING CONTACT?

CHATCHAI: THERE IS NO NEED TO MAKE CONTACT THROUGH
ANYBODY. DIRECT CONTACT IS MADE WITH EVERY SIDE.

REPORTER: WITH SIHANOUK OR KHIEU SAMPHAN?
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CHATCHAI: WITH EVERY AND ALL SIDES. I CONTACT THEM ALL.

REPORTER: DOES THAT MEAN THAT THERE ARE WAYS TO MAKE
CONTACTS?

CHATCHAI: YES, THERE ARE SOME WAYS.

REPORTER: IS CONTACT BEING MADE THROUGH INDONESIA?

CHATCHAI: DIRECTLY.

REPORTER: HOW ARE YOU MAKING CONTACT?

CHATCHAI: FROM THAILAND.

REPORTER: THROUGH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES HERE IN THAILAND?

CHATCHAI: I CAN'T TELL YOU EVERYTHING... GOOD HEAVENS...

REPORTER: WITH HOW MANY SIDES MUST CONSULTATIONS BE HELD NOW?

CHATCHAI: WITH CAMBODIANS ONLY. IT IS AN ISSUED AMONG CAMBODIANS THEMSELVES ONLY.

REPORTER: BUT THEY ARE SPLIT INTO SEVERAL GROUPS.

CHATCHAI: THERE ARE TWO GROUPS ONLY -- ONE WHICH IS ANTI THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OTHER WHICH SUPPORTS THE GOVERNMENT.

REPORTER: HAS THE GOVERNMENT SIDE ALREADY AGREED TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS?

CHATCHAI: YES. I SAID... HE GAVE A NEWS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY EVERNING IN WHICH HE SAID ALREADY HE WANTS...

REPORTER: HAS ANY CONTACT BEEN MADE WITH SIHANOUK'S SIDE YET?

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CHATCHAI: NO COMMENT.

REPORTER: KHIEU SAMPHAN AND SIHANOUK ARE THE SAME GROUP, BUT FEEL IT IS NOT CERTAIN WHO IS THE LEADER.

CHATCHAI: THAT DIRECTLY CONCERNS THE KHMER ROUGES. I UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE ALL OF THE SAME SIDE.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THERE IS HOPE FOR SUCCESS TO BE ACHIEVED?

CHATCHAI: WE HAD TO MAKE THE OFFER FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY. SHOULD ANYBODY NOT ACCEPT IT IS UP TO THEM. IT IS NOT OUR AFFAIR. THE REASON WHY WE WANT THE FIGHTING

AND KILLING TO BE STOPPED IS BECAUSE SUCH A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF SMALL CHILDREN ARE BEING KILLED. SOLDIERS MIGHT NOT DIE IN A GREAT NUMBER, BUT THERE IS HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE AMONG THE PEOPLE AND CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING IN ANY WAY AT ALL.

REPORTER: DO YOU MEAN THAT YOU WILL MAKE EFFORTS TO THE VERY END?

CHATCHAI: YES.

REPORTER: SHOULD IT NOT OKAY, IT WOULD MEAN AS LONG BORET SAID YESTERDAY EVENING THAT IF THE OTHER SIDE WOULD NOT SIT DOWN AROUND THE SAME TABLE AND NEGOTIATE, THEN THEY WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE...

CHATCHAI: YES. THAT'S CORRECT. WE ARE MAKING EFFORTS TO THE UTMOST ALREADY. YOU YOURSELVES HAVE SEEN THAT PREMIER LONG BORET IS A GOOD MAN.

REPORTER: HAS ANY TIME LIMIT BEEN FIXED FOR A MEETING BETWEEN SIHANOUK AND LONG BORET? HOW LONG WILL THEY WAIT?

CHATCHAI: IN SOLVING THIS KIND OF PROBLEM, MOVES HAVE TO BE MADE STEP BY STEP AND GRADUALLY. NOTHING CAN BE DONE IN A HURRY. THEREFORE, IT IS SAID THAT I AM TOO UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPATIENT, THOUGH I AM MAKING EFFORTS STEP BY STEP.

REPORTER: DOES THAT MEAN THAT CONTACT HAS BEEN MADE?

CHATCHAI: YES. CONTACT HAS BEEN MADE ALREADY.

REPORTER: WAS IT DIRECT CONTACT WITH KHMER ROUGE?

CHATCHAI: YES. IT WAS DIRECT CONTACT, NOT THROUGH A THIRD PERSON.

REPORTER: HOW LONG AGO DID YOU START MAKING CONTACT?

CHATCHAI: THAT'S A SECRET. MY VIEW IS THAT IF EVERY SIDE PLACES THE COMMON INTERESTS OF THEIR COUNTRY AND HUMANITARIANISM ABOVE ALL ELSE, THERE IS HOPE.

REPORTER: IN REGARD TO CONTACT YOU HAVE MADE WITH THE OTHER SIDE TO CAMBODIA...

CHATCHAI: THERE IS NO OTHER SIDE TO CAMBODIANS AT ALL. THAILAND IS A FRIEND OF EVERY AND ALL PARTIES AND KNOWS ALL

OF THEM. I OFFERED THE GOOD OFFICES OF THAILAND TO THEM AS THE SITE FOR A MEETING, AND IF THEY ACCEPTED THE OFFER I WOULD MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR IT... WE MUST CONTINUE WAITING.

REPORTER: WHAT IS THE ATTITUDE OF THE SIHANOUK GOVERNMENT TOWARD THE THAI GOVERNMENT AT PRESENT?

CHATCHAI: IT IS GOOD. NO STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE ATTACKING US AT ALL.

REPORTER: HAS NO ANSWER AT ALL BEEN MADE TO THIS CONTACT?

CHATCHAI: PLEASE BE PATIENT. IT IS STILL VERY RECENT.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT THEY WILL FEEL CONFIDENCE IN THAILAND AS THE SITE FOR THEM TO COME AND UNCLASSIFIED

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HOLD NEGOTIATIONS IN...

CHATCHAI: I THINK THAT THEY WILL FEEL SUFFICIENT CONFIDENCE.

REPORTER: ... IN SPITE OF ALLEGATIONS THAT THERE ARE TRANSPORTATIONS OF WEAPONS?

CHATCHAI: BUT WE HAVE STOPPED THAT.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT RESULTS WILL BE OBTAINED?

CHATCHAI: I THINK SO. THE EFFORTS WE ARE MAKING ARE WITH GOOD INTENTIONS TO EVERY SIDE, AND ESPECIALLY TO CAMBODIA AS A WHOLE, INCLUDING ALL THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF WHICH SIDE THEY SUPPORT.

REPORTER: BUT THE RED CAMBODIAN RADIO BROADCAST A STATEMENT MADE BY KHIEU SAMPHAN ON APRIL 2, IN WHICH HE ATTACKED THE UNITED STATES AND ITS STOOGES, INCLUDING THAILAND ALSO...

CHATCHAI: THAILAND IS NOT A STOOGES OR A SATELLITE OF THE UNITED STATES.

REPORTER: THAILAND WAS MENTIONED BY NAME. HE SAID THAT EFFORTS MADE AND BARGAINING FOR NEGOTIATIONS, ETC., TO BE HELD ARE A METHOD USED TO MAKE THE FIGHTING CONTINUE AND DRAG ON...

CHATCHAI: OUR PROPOSAL FOR A CEASEFIRE, FOR EVERY CAMBODIAN PARTY TO TURN TOWARD ONE ANOTHER AND HOLD TALKS, IS A PLAN OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT, NOT OF ANYBODY ELSE. IT IS BECAUSE WE WISH THIS NEIGHBORING COUNTRY TO ENJOY PEACE AND HAPPINESS. I GUARANTEE THIS ON THE PART OF THIS GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY THE PRIME MINISTER WHO HAS EMPHASIZED MANY, MANY TIMES THAT HE WISHES PEACE TO BE RESTORED TO CAMBODIA.

REPORTER: THERE IS A NEWS REPORT STATING THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE CAMBODIAN SENATE, WHO IS ACTING PRESI-
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DENT DURING THE ABSENCE OF LON NOL, HAS HELD CONSULTATIONS WITH EVERY PARTY IN ORDER FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO BE HELD. DOES THAT MEAN THAT PHNOM PENH WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE RED CAMBODIANS?

CHATCHAI: EVERY AND ALL PARTIES ARE MAKING EFFORTS FOR THE FIGHTING TO BE STOOPE, FOR CEASEFIRE, IN ORDER TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION WHETHER THIS MEANS THAT PHNOM PENH WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE. THAT IS UP TO THE CAMBODIANS THEMSELVES. SINCE THAILAND AND CAMBODIA HAVE A COMMON BORDER AND GOOD RELATIONS HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN THEM SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, SHOULD IT NOT BE CONVENIENT FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO BE HELD IN CAMBODIA, WE HAVE OFFERED FOR THEM TO BE HELD IN BANGKOK, OR ANYWHERE IN THAILAND AS DESIRED. THAT IS ALL.
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